

Mehdi Olad Wins Gold at Para Athletics World Championships



PARIS – Olad of Iran claimed a gold medal at the Paris 2023 Para Athletics World Championships on Thursday.

He came first at the Men's Shot Put F11 Final with a throw of 13.79 meters.

The silver medal went to Brazilian athlete Alessandro Da Silva with 13.43 meters and Alvaro del Amo Cano from Spain claimed the bronze with 12.81 meters.

Iranian shot putter Rashid Masjedi and long jumper Amir Khosravani had previously won a gold and a silver medal respectively.

Hashemieh Motaghian Snatches Bronze

Hashemieh Motaghian of Iran claimed a bronze medal at event on Thursday.

Latvian Diana Krumina won the gold medal at the Women's Javelin Throw F56 Final with a throw of 25.81 meters.

Brazilian thrower Raissa Rocha won the silver with 23.05 meters.

The bronze medal also went to Motaghian with 22.95 meters.

Farzaneh Fasihi Snatches Silver Medal at Asia Athletics Championships



TEHRAN – Iranian sprinter Farzaneh Fasihi won the silver medal at the 2023 Asian Athletics Championships on Friday.

Fasihi managed to stand in the second of the competition by recording a time of 11.39 seconds for 100 meters.

Earlier on Friday, Mehdi Saberi of Iran bagged the sil-

ver medal in Bangkok with a 19.98m throw at the Asian Athletics Championships 2023.

The Asian Athletics Championships is an event organized by the Asian Athletics Association.

The 2023 edition of the event is being held from 12 to 16 July 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand.



U-21 Volleyballers Overpower Thailand at World Championship

TEHRAN - Iran overpowered Thailand 3-0 (25-11, 25-16, 25-19) on Wednesday to book a place in the 2023 FIVB Volleyball Men's U-21 World Championship semi-finals.

Mobin Nasri collected nine points and Jakkrit Thanomnoi scored 11 points for Thailand.

Iran, who had defeated Thailand 3-1, Tunisia 3-2 and Bahrain 3-0 and Poland 3-0 in its previous matches, will play Bulgaria in Pool E on Thursday.

The winners and runners-up of pools E and F will progress to the semifinals and eventually determine the medalists.

Jabeur Ousts Defending Champion Rybakina



LONDON (Reuters) - Tunisian Ons Jabeur gained revenge for her defeat in last year's Wimbledon final when she surged back from a set down to beat third-seeded defending champion Kazakh Elena Rybakina 6-7(5) 6-4 6-1 on Wednesday to reach the semifinals.

A year ago Jabeur looked on course to become the first Arabic and African female champion before fading to lose in three sets but the dream is still on in 2023 after the sixth seed mounted a spirited comeback having looked distraught after the first set tie-break went against her.

Jabeur upped her game after that, remaining positive and going for the big shots as Moscow-born Rybakina's big serve faltered and the on-fire Tunisian won eight of the last nine games.

She will play second seed Aryna Sabalenka in the semis after the Belarusian beat American Madison Keys in straight sets earlier.

"I wish we could exchange this match from the final last year," Jabeur said. "I'm very happy with the performance. There was a lot of emotion out there, especially playing someone who serves really well. It's frustrating to return but I'm glad I did everything, shouted, got angry then got calm and focused."

"The first set should have gone my way. I honestly doubted a little bit. I kept yelling at my coach saying, 'You told me to play like this and look what's happening'."

"Then I really tried to get back in the zone and believe this plan is the plan and kept going. I think I'm going to end up writing a book about my emotions because this is unbelievable."

"Hopefully I can keep managing my emotions like this for the next few matches."

Alcaraz Beats Rune to Reach Wimbledon Semis

It was billed as the battle of the 20-year-olds but Carlos Alcaraz pulled rank on his childhood buddy Holger Rune as he doused the Dane's fireworks to reach the Wimbledon semi-finals for the first time with a 7-6(3) 6-4 6-4 victory.

The two tyros, who were born six days apart, were contesting a men's Wimbledon quarter-final that for the first time in the professional era featured two players aged under 21.

Despite his youth, Alcaraz is already at home among the elite of men's tennis and produced the form that has carried him to the top of the rankings by never allowing Rune to gain the upper hand, no matter how many flashy shots the Dane conjured.

"It's amazing for me, a dream since I started playing tennis. It's a dream to be able to play a semi-final here," Alcaraz said after setting up a semi-final showdown with Russian third seed Daniil Medvedev on Friday.

"I am playing at a great level, I didn't expect to play such a great level on this surface. For me, it is crazy," added the Spaniard who has been more at home on clay and hard courts.

After saving a break point in the opening game of the match, Alcaraz put on a majestic performance in front of Britain's Queen Camilla to end Rune's hopes of becoming the first Danish player in 65 years to reach the All England Club semi-finals.

Sixth seed Rune certainly won most of the crowd-pleasing points, whether it was a tweener between the legs or a stupendous reflex volley he hit at the net after Alcaraz had dashed back to the baseline to retrieve a lob.

Philipsen Takes 4th Win at Tour de France

MOULINS, France (Reuters) - Jasper Philipsen cemented his status as this year's sprinting star when he claimed his fourth stage win in the Tour de France.

The Belgian was a cut above the rest in the 11th stage, a 180km ride from Clermont Ferrand, beating Dutchman Dylan Groenewegen and German Phil Bauhaus to take his career tally of wins in the world's greatest race to six.

Although he did not benefit this time from the work of his top lead-out man Mathieu van der Poel, who struggled in the finale, Philipsen timed his effort to perfection to prevail by a bike length.



Alpecin-Deceuninck's Belgian rider Jasper Philipsen cycles to the finish line to win the 11th stage of the 110th edition of the Tour de France cycling race, 180 km between Clermont-Ferrand and Moulins, in central France, on July 12, 2023.

He has now won six of the last seven bunch sprints on the Tour, having only been denied this year by Dane Mads Pedersen in Limoges last Saturday.

The Alpecin Deceuninck rider became the first man to win four stages in the same Tour

since Briton Mark Cavendish in 2021.

Italian Daniel Oss was the last of a three-man breakaway group to be swallowed up by the peloton, 13.5km from the finish line, making way for the sprinters' team in light rain.

Philipsen can now bid to become the first rider to win five stages in a single edition of the Tour since German Marcel Kittel in 2017.

He strengthened his grip on the green jersey for the points classification, taking his tally to 323 and widen the gap with second-placed Bryan Coquard to a massive 145 points.

IOC Warns Over Political Interference in Olympics

LONDON (BBC) - Allowing governments to decide which athletes can take part in competitions "would be the end of international sport as we know it", the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has warned.

The organization says it "has found middle ground" for athletes from Ukraine, Russia and Belarus.

But the Russian and Ukrainian authorities have opposed its plans.

"It cannot be up to the governments to decide which athletes can take part," the IOC said.

The body updated its stance on Russian and Belarusian athletes in a document released on Thursday.

The IOC has been under pressure to ban Russian and Belaru-

sian athletes from competing, even under a neutral flag, following the war in Ukraine.

In March it told sporting federations they should allow athletes from those countries to compete as neutrals.

With the 2024 Paris Olympics due to start in just over a year, the IOC is still fine tuning its stance on Russian and Belarusian athletes and said it has not made a final decision on their participation in next year's Games. However, it said the National Organizing Committees of Russia and Belarus would play no part in the Games.

It stressed that allowing participation "works", highlighting several sports in which athletes from the warring nations had



competed without problems - though some athletes have questioned this.

It also highlighted a ruling by the United Nations Human Rights Council, which advised that a blanket ban on Russian and Belarusian athletes would be discriminatory and a flagrant viola-

tion of human rights.

Wimbledon has also allowed athletes from those two nations to compete over the past few weeks, although Victoria Azarenka, who holds a Belarusian passport, was booed off court by fans after losing to Ukraine's Elina Svitolina.